

Appln. No. 10/655,863

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1840

II. Remarks

By this paper, Applicants are amending claims 1, 9, and 21 and adding claims 23-24. Therefore, after entering this amendment, claims 1-24 are currently pending.

Reconsideration and further examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is therefore respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-20. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify the position of the second sealing member during the first and second residual pressures. More specifically, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the second residual pressure is above the first residual pressure. Therefore, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the second sealing member and the second seat abut at the first (lower) residual pressure and that the second sealing member and the second seat are unsealed at the second (higher) residual pressure.

Paragraph [0017] in the Original Application as filed discloses that the back pressure relief valve 32 remains sealed with the input pressure is less than about 3 psi and unseals when the input pressure exceeds 3 psi. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Further Claim Clarifications

Claim 9 has been amended and new claims 23-24, depending therefrom, have been added to clarify, more particularly to point out and distinctly claim that which Applicants regard as the subject matter of the present invention.

Claim 9 has been amended to recite that the first and second members are joined as a single, unitary component. Paragraphs [0026] – [0030] and Figures 11-13 in the Original Application as filed disclose the first and second members being a single, unitary component (136, 162, 194). Therefore, no new matter is being added.

Claim 23 has been added to recite that the component is generally spherical, that the first sealing member is a first portion of the component, and that the second sealing member is a second portion of the component. Paragraphs [0026], [0027],

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and [0030] and Figures 11 and 13 in the Original Application as filed disclose the first and second members being a ball (136, 194) as recited in claim 23. Therefore, no new matter is being added.

Claim 24 has been added to recite that the component is generally spherical, that the component is a poppet valve, that the first sealing member is a first vane surface, and that the second sealing member is a second vane surface first sealing member is a first portion of the component. Paragraphs [0029]-[0029] and Figure 12 in the Original Application as filed disclose the first and second members being a poppet (162) as recited in claim 24. Therefore, no new matter is being added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Hassinger*.

Claim 21 has been amended to recite that the second valve forms a fluid-tight seal to prevent the relieving of said pressurized state through the second valve when the engine is operating. *Hassinger* fails to anticipate claim 21 as amended because *Hassinger* fails to disclose a second valve that is sealed when the engine is operating. Conversely, *Hassinger* discloses a first valve 32 that is open during engine operation and a second valve 76 that opens to relieve pressure during operation. (*Hassinger*, col. 4, line 49 – col. 5, line 3, Figure 5). Therefore, *Hassinger* fails to anticipate claim 21, and claims 21-22 are allowable.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant asserts that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 21, 2003 was not acknowledged as being received by the Examiner. For the Examiner's convenience Applicants have attached: the Information Disclosure Statement, the Form 1449, and the Transmittal Letter having a Certificate of Mailing that were all filed on November 21, 2003.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is

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invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicants via telephone number (734) 302-6000, if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachments:

Information Disclosure Statement originally filed on November 21, 2003
Transmittal Letter originally filed on November 21, 2003

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